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**Request
For
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal**

Address to:
Commissioner for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, DC 20231

Application Number	09/916,378
Filing Date	July 27, 2001
First Named Inventor	Eugen Muller, et al.
Art Unit	1725
Examiner Name	L. Tran
Attorney Docket Number	2821-213

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Rely Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

- The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 13-0235
- a. ☒ The RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
- i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 750.00 enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Richard D. Getz	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	36,147
Signature	<i>Richard D. Getz</i>	Date	June 18, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Elizabeth A. Dudek	Date	June 18, 2003
Signature	<i>Elizabeth A. Dudek</i>		

Page 1 of 2

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

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Elizabeth A. Dudek
Typed or Printed Name of Person Sending Paper or Fee
Elizabeth A. Dudek 18 June 2003
Signature Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of	:	Docket No. 2821-213
EUGEN MÜLLER et al.	:	Date: 18 June 2003
Serial No.: 09/916,378	:	Group Art Unit: 1725
Filed On: 27 July 2001	:	Examiner: L. Tran

TITLE: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR WELDING SHEET OVERLAPS

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This communication is submitted in connection with the filing of an RCE in the above-identified U.S. patent application. Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1-10 and 16-18 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 11-15 and 19-21 are under consideration.